

he should keep an eye on its health and surroundings." Commissioner Goldwater has quite wisely urged the policemen to do this work rather as a friendly neighborhood adviser than as the stern impersonation of the law. Necessarily the policeman has limitations as a health officer but it is obvious that, in connection with nuisances particularly, he does not require a great deal of training. In New York City arrangements are under way to include in the regular curriculum of the training schools for new policemen a course of lectures and instructions in health matters. It is obvious that in a very large number of our health departments there are insufficient inspectors to make the necessary frequent inspections of their districts. The greater the number of inspectors the greater the number of nuisances that will be discovered. The size of the policeman's beat is necessarily very much smaller than the district covered by a sanitary inspector.

It is true that some police commissioners are opposed to using any of their officers for the work of the health departments. Some commissioners state that their objection is based on the fact that it takes too much of their time, and that their services are required in the more important work of protecting the lives and properties of citizens; also for the reason that such inspections should be made by persons skilled in the laws of sanitation. It is certainly true that an ignorant or over-zealous police officer might occasionally do something which might get the health department in hot water. While this cannot be gainsaid, it seems obvious that with coöperation between the departments and with the proper instruction of the police officers, that the benefits would far outweigh the disadvantages. The editor of this JOURNAL in an article which appeared a couple of years ago in these pages summarized the four main advantages of such a plan of coöperation as follows: (1) Increase of efficiency of public service in the amelioration and prevention of nuisances, and a resulting cleaner and more decent city. (2) Health departments able to devote more of their time to health work and to bring about healthier communities. (3) The development of coöperation between police and health departments. (4) No added cost to city. There does not seem to be any occasion to alter the conclusions. Coöperation is a good slogan for health departments and is apt to mean more than economy and efficiency.

CONCERNING THE ROCHESTER MEETINGS.

The attention of members of the American Public Health Association is again drawn to the fact that although the Association meetings at Rochester do not begin until Tuesday morning, September 7, they are cordially invited to be present at the open meeting of the Fifteenth Annual Conference of the Sanitary Officers of the State of

New York which is to be held on Monday evening, September 6, at eight o'clock. There will be addresses by Dr. Hermann M. Biggs, Dr. W. C. Gorgas, Dr. G. W. Goler and others. (See page 18 of the Preliminary Announcement which has already been sent to the members.)